

The meaning of the statement “Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah” includes:

- a) When you testify to it, you need to know that he is Muhammad bin Abdullah al-Hashimi al-Quraishi, the Messenger of Allah to both Jinn and Mankind. You need to testify it with your tongue and believe it with your heart. As Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Araf (7:158)

قُلْ يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ الَّذِي يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَكَلِمَاتِهِ وَاتَّبِعُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ

Say (O Muhammad ): "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to You All as the Messenger of Allâh - to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. Lâ ilâha illa Huwa (none has the Right to be worshipped but He); it is He who gives life and causes death. So believe In Allâh and his Messenger (Muhammad), the Prophet who can neither read nor write (i.e. Muhammad) who believes In Allâh and his Words and follow Him so that you may be guided."(7:158)

- b) You need to obey the commands that Allah revealed through the Sunnah of the Messenger (saws). You also need to leave everything that Allah prohibited through the tongue of the Prophet (saws). Allah says in the Qur'an:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِيَ الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

“O You who believe! Obey Allâh and obey the Messenger (Muhammad), and those of You (Muslims) who are In authority. (and) if You differ In anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allâh and his Messenger, if You believe In Allâh and In the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination.” (5:59)

The Ulama of Muslims have said: “Obedience to Allah means obedience to the Messenger (saws)”

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

“But no, by Your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make You (O Muhammad ) judge In All disputes between them, and find In themselves no resistance against Your decisions, and Accept (them) with full submission.(4:65)”

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal said: “If you turn around and question the command of the Messenger (saws), beware, because Allah will put fitnah (discord) and doubts inside your heart, and that is Shirk”

- c) You must worship Allah according to the Sunnah of the Messenger (saws), otherwise it (your worship) will be Batil (Invalid, not accepted by Allah). Some Ulama have said that the foundations of Islam are on the following three Ahadith:

From the Amir al-Muminin Abu Hafs 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, radiya'llahu 'anhu, that he said, *"I heard the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, saying, 'Actions are only by intentions, and every man has only that which he intended. Whoever's emigration is for Allah and His Messenger then his emigration is for Allah and His Messenger. Whoever's emigration is for some worldly gain which he can acquire or a woman he will marry then his emigration is for that for which he emigrated'"* (Bukhari & Muslim)

On the authority of the Mother of the Faithful, Umm Abdullah Aisha (ra), who said, The Messenger of Allah (sas) said: *"He who innovates something in this matter of ours [i.e. Islam] that is not of it will have it rejected [by Allah]"* (Bukhari & Muslim)

From Aammar, who said that he heard Al-Nu'man bin Basheer say that he heard the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessing be upon him, say: *"What is lawful is evident and what is unlawful is evident, and in between them are the things doubtful which many people do not know. So he who guards against doubtful things keeps his religion and honour blameless, and he who indulges in doubtful things indulges in fact in unlawful things, just as a shepherd who pastures his animals round a preserve will soon pasture them in it. Beware, every king has a preserve, and the things God has declared unlawful are His preserves. Beware, in the body there is a piece of flesh; if it is sound, the whole body is sound and if it is corrupt the whole body is corrupt, and hearken it is the heart."* (Bukhari & Muslim)

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣١﴾

“Say (O Muhammad to mankind): "If You (really) love Allâh Then follow Me (i.e. Accept Islâmic Monotheism, follow the Qur'ân and the Sunnah), Allâh will love You and forgive You of Your sins. And Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (3:31)

The Ulama have said that this verse is the test for somebody who claims to love Allah and His Messenger. Those who worship Allah according to their own desires are liars. To show the love of the Sahabas for the Prophet's (saws) Sunnah, we can give the example of U'mar (r.a) and the stone "Umar bin Al-Khattab addressed the Corner (Black Stone) saying, 'by Allah! I know that you are a stone and can neither benefit nor harm. Had I not seen the Prophet (saws) touching (and kissing) you, I would never have touched (and kissed) you.' Then he kissed it and said, 'There is no reason for us to do Ramal (in Tawaf) except that we wanted to show off before the pagans, and now Allah has destroyed them.' Umar added, '(Nevertheless), the Prophet did that and we do not want to leave it (i.e. Ramal).'"

Another example is that of Abu Bakr (r.a) who would say: “Shall I leave a Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (saws), I am afraid that a calamity will befall me”

There are also other stories like that of Abdullah bin U’mar (r.a) who, if he knew that the Prophet (saws) prayed two raka’ah Salah in a certain place, he would do the same, or he would go to relieve himself in the places that the Prophet (saws) did.

P.S.: This was a summary from my notes during last night Paltalk lecture. I have edited some material, and missed some, but this will serve the purpose of making Muslims learn more about the Prophet (saws) *InshaAllah.*